

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 20, 2000 LB 182

Committee for many years. I always really came down on the side of the students, but that was not without controversy, and so I, too, wanted to thank Senator Brashear. Last year we did reach a compromise that you see before you that allows school boards to develop those policies, if they do not have one, and I think at the same time give young people the freedom to express opinions that are within the guidelines set out by the bill. Surely, many of these people will someday be sitting on editorial boards, we hope, somewhere on other newspapers. If not, they will be involved with possibly journalism in another fashion. It certainly is an opportunity, I think, for them to use their critical thinking skills and every once in awhile, when you write something, you may find out that not everyone agrees with you and, indeed, that has consequences. I think that's not a bad lesson in life. We often get that lesson here on the floor of the Legislature every day, but I think it's an important, important piece for young people to challenge them to use those critical thinking skills, to go forward in that thought process, be a part of it, produce something that holds them accountable, but at the same time I think protects local boards of education and, essentially, that's what the compromise does. So with that, I want to tell you that the Education Committee has worked a number of years on this issue, and we would be delighted to see that a bill that's had so much work would finally be advanced from General File. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. We are now debating the committee amendments to LB 182. Senator Bromm, you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and, Senator Beutler, I rise perhaps with some questions as much as anything because I've not had an opportunity to really understand this as well as I probably should have.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Beutler, in Section 2 of the committee amendments, starting in about line 8, we say the Legislature further finds the student expression generally ought not be inhibited except for, and then it goes through several items